

## Francesca Frascina - Sexuality and Gender Studies

I graduated in 2011 from the University of Birmingham with a BA Modern Languages in Spanish, French and Portuguese. Based upon my achievements in Portuguese I was soon offered Instituto Camões funding to continue studying with a MPhil (A) in Portuguese Studies at Birmingham, which I began in 2012 supervised by [Dr Conrad James](#) ([staff/profiles/hispanic/james-conrad.aspx](#)) (Hispanic Studies) and Dr José Lingna Nafafé (POLISIS).

Advancing from an undergraduate interest in postcolonial and gender studies, my research project examines representations and functions of gender in the post-independence fictional narrative of Guinea Bissau, one of five lusophone African countries. I examine the use of gender in reflections of the country's past and present, and in constructing the imagined national future. I am also interested in exploring the experimentation with the boundaries of scribal and oral literature which is prevalent in the lusophone and krioulo literature of Guinea Bissau.